

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 7th, 2022
Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Anne Miller, Ellen Keene, Nick Seifert, Wes Cate

Public: Rich Phillips, Mike Xenakis, Bob Atchinson

- Public comment
 - Mike introduced himself and mentioned some of his interests.
 - The rest of the people in attendance gave brief intros and said hi.
- Announcements
 - Bob will send an email about an event on church street coming up.
 - Ellen mentioned the movie "Don't Look Up" and recommended it.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and seconded, approved.
- Agenda modifications
 - Brief discussion about the VECAN webinar about greenwashing of the climate solutions act. Bob mentioned that he has a recording he can share if people are interested.
- Business:
 - Town report
 - Brief update
 - Climate Action Plan legislation update
 - Bob had a brief update on this. Sounds like some of the pieces of this plan are being spun-off as independent pieces of legislation. One is related to forests and how to improve current use.
 - Rich mentioned H552 is the transportation bill, and picks up from the climate action plan as well. There are a lot of appropriations in the bill. Rich is going to keep a close eye on this, and he expects that there will be grants for EV charging infrastructure available.
 - Marshfield municipal solar updates
 - Nick gave an update on the current state of things. No article was added to the town meeting because of a missed deadline. The next chance for this would be at the November election, adding a special ballot item.
 - The selectboard is not clearly decided on any of the three paths forward (roof mount on picnic shelter, upgrade existing trackers, become an offtaker).
 - For the offtaker agreement the town wants to see a typical long-term agreement so the town lawyer can review. Nick is working to provide this.
 - For the tracker upgrade there is a concern about hardware issue.

- Over the next few months the hope is to identify what monies can be used to fund the picnic shelter, and possibly solar on the roof as well.
- Bob mentioned that the renewable energy credits may be sold by the developer (e.g. Norwich Solar), and then sold onto coal plants. This approach depends on the developer, so need to check what their agreement is.
- Ellen mentioned that she would be interested in a community solar group that people could buy into.
 - Nick mentioned that John Morris may have some information about this, or interest.
- Grant opportunities:
 - [Rural energy pilot program](#)
 - Adding this to the agenda for next time to discuss how to use this.
 - [Multi-unit residential housing EV charging](#)
- Plainfield updates
 - Bob mentioned that the EV charger in downtown Plainfield is back in service. He isn't sure how this will work next summer when they're back, hoping they can park their trailers somewhere else.
 - Bob scoping out some additional solar, possibly up to 15kW.
- Agenda for next time:
 - Public comments
 - Announcements
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Agenda modifications
 - Business:
 - Community solar
 - What renewable energy project could take advantage of the Rural Energy Pilot Program grant?
 - [Rural energy pilot program](#)
 - Marshfield municipal solar update
 - Grant opportunities
 - Climate Action Plan (legislative update) and spin-off legislation
 - Transportation bill update
 - Plainfield Updates

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